

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 39 to 41 are added and claims 3, 25, 27 and 37 are amended as set forth hereinafter.

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Original) A holding device for attaching a drape for a surgical microscope in the region of the main objective thereof, said main objective having an outer peripheral surface and said holding device comprising:

5           a holding unit defining a recess for said objective; and,  
          said holding unit having a tongue-shaped section for  
applying a spring force onto said outer peripheral surface of  
said main objective when said holding unit is mounted on said  
main objective in order to force-tightly hold said holding unit  
10       on said main objective.

2. (Original) The holding device of claim 1, wherein said holding unit has a plurality of said tongue-shaped sections.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~The holding device of claim 2, wherein~~  
A holding device for attaching a drape for a surgical microscope  
in the region of the main objective thereof, said main objective  
having an outer peripheral surface and said holding device

5     comprising:

a holding unit defining a recess for said objective;

said holding unit having a tongue-shaped section for  
        applying a spring force onto said outer peripheral surface of  
        said main objective when said holding unit is mounted on said  
10     main objective in order to force-tightly hold said holding unit  
        on said main objective;

said holding unit having a plurality of said tongue-shaped  
        sections; and,

        said tongue-shaped sections ~~have~~ having different lengths.

4.   (Previously Presented)   The holding device of claim 3,  
wherein said holding unit has an annular section defining an  
annular recess and said annular recess defines an axis; and, said  
tongue-shaped sections extend in an inclined direction to said  
5     axis.

5.   (Original)   The holding device of claim 4, wherein said  
tongue-shaped sections are directed toward the inner side of said  
annular section.

6.   (Original)   The holding device of claim 5, wherein the  
direction of said tongue-shaped sections to said axis is  
different.

7.   (Withdrawn)   The holding device of claim 1, said holding unit  
including a stop element for impacting against an end face region  
of said main objective.

8. (Withdrawn) The holding device of claim 1, further comprising a cover element; and, said holding unit including means for holding said cover element.

9. (Withdrawn) The holding device of claim 8, wherein said holding means includes a guide for said cover element.

10. (Withdrawn) The holding device of claim 9, wherein said holding means includes clamping means.

11. (Withdrawn) The holding device of claim 10, wherein said holding means includes latching means.

12. (Withdrawn) The holding device of claim 11, wherein said guide includes a stop section for said cover element.

13. (Previously Presented) The holding device of claim 1, wherein said holding unit is made of plastic.

14. (Withdrawn) The holding device of claim 8, wherein said cover element is matched to said holding unit so as to permit said cover element to be accommodated in said holding unit in two orientations rotated by 180° to each other.

15. (Withdrawn) The holding device of claim 1, further comprising:

a cover element having a window section for passing a viewing beam path and/or an illuminating beam path of said

5 surgical microscope;  
the cover element including:  
a holding section for holding said cover element in said  
holding unit; and,  
linear guide means in said holding section for facilitating  
10 a lateral introduction of said cover element into said holding  
unit.

16. (Withdrawn) The holding device of claim 15, wherein said  
holding section includes, at least partially, a thickened edge.

17. (Withdrawn) The holding device of claim 16, further  
comprising at least one notch formed in said thickened edge.

18. (Withdrawn) The holding device of claim 15, further  
comprising a handle formed on said cover element.

19. (Withdrawn) The holding device of claim 18, wherein said  
holding section defines a region lying opposite said handle and  
said region of said holding section has a boundary edge having a  
convex contour.

20. (Withdrawn) The holding device of claim 19, wherein said  
boundary edge has at least one rounded edge region.

21. (Withdrawn) The holding device of claim 15, further  
comprising a window base for carrying said window section.

22. (Withdrawn) The holding device of claim 21, wherein said window base is configured to have a conical cross section.

23. (Withdrawn) The holding device of claim 22, wherein said window section is inclined to said holding section.

24. (Withdrawn) The holding device of claim 15, which cover element is made of PMMA.

25. (Currently Amended) A drape system for a surgical microscope having a main objective and said main objective having an outer peripheral surface, the drape system comprising:

a drape;

5 a holding device for attaching said drape in the region of said main objective;

said holding device including a holding unit defining a recess for said main objective; and,

10 said holding unit having a ~~tongue-shape~~ tongue-shaped section for applying a spring force onto said outer peripheral surface of said main objective when said holding unit is mounted on said main objective in order to force-tightly hold said holding unit on said main objective.

26. (Original) The drape system of claim 25, wherein said holding unit has a plurality of said tongue-shaped sections.

27. (Currently Amended) ~~The drape system of claim 26, wherein~~  
A drape system for a surgical microscope having a main objective

and said main objective having an outer peripheral surface, the  
drape system comprising:

5           a drape;

a holding device for attaching said drape in the region of  
said main objective;

said holding device including a holding unit defining a  
recess for said main objective; and,

10           said holding unit having a tongue-shaped section for  
appling a spring force onto said outer peripheral surface of  
said main objective when said holding unit is mounted on said  
main objective in order to force-tightly hold said holding unit  
on said main objective;

15           said holding unit having a plurality of said tongue-shaped  
sections; and,

said tongue-shaped sections have different lengths.

28. (Original) The drape system of claim 27, wherein said  
holding unit has an annular section defining an axis and defining  
an annular recess and said annular recess defining an axis; and,  
said tongue-shaped sections extending in an inclined direction to  
5       said axis.

29. (Original) The drape system of claim 28, wherein said  
tongue-shaped sections are directed toward the inner side of said  
annular section.

30. (Original) The drape system of claim 29, wherein the  
direction of said tongue-shaped sections to said axis is

different.

31. (Withdrawn) The drape system of claim 25, said holding unit including a stop element for impacting against an end face region of said main objective.

32. (Withdrawn) The drape system of claim 25, further comprising a cover element; and, said holding unit including means for holding said cover element.

33. (Withdrawn) The drape system of claim 32, wherein said holding means includes a guide for said cover element.

34. (Withdrawn) The drape system of claim 33, wherein said holding means includes clamping means.

35. (Withdrawn) The drape system of claim 34, wherein said holding means includes latching means.

36. (Withdrawn) The drape system of claim 35, wherein said guide includes a stop section for said cover element.

37. (Currently Amended) The drape system of claim 25, wherein said holding unit is made of plastic.

38. (Withdrawn) The drape system of claim 32, wherein said cover element is matched to said holding unit so as to permit said cover element to be accommodated in said holding unit in two

orientations rotated by 180° to each other.

39. (New) A holding device for attaching a drape for a surgical microscope in the region of the main objective thereof, said main objective having an outer peripheral surface defining a diameter and said holding device comprising:

5           a holding unit connected to said drape and defining a recess for said objective;

          said recess having a fixed diameter;

          said holding unit having a tongue-shaped section for  
applying a spring force onto said outer peripheral surface of  
10       said main objective when said holding unit is mounted on said  
main objective in order to force-tightly hold said holding unit  
on said main objective; and,

          said tongue-shaped section being configured to bend  
differently depending upon said diameter of said outer peripheral  
15       surface of said main objective thereby force-tightly holding said  
holding unit on said main objective independently of said fixed  
diameter.

40. (New) The holding device of claim 39, wherein said holding unit has a plurality of said tongue-shaped sections.

41. (New) The holding device of claim 2, wherein said tongue-shaped sections have different lengths.